

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091398

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/EB:WPKELLY

APPROVED BY: EUR/IB:MR. LUKINS

S/S:JHOGANSON

EUR:MR. ROUSE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 091398

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEATS PRAGUE 880 ACTION DEPT APRIL 21ST

QUOTE

S E C R E T PRAGUE 880

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PO, CZ

SUBJECT: REPORT FROM PORTUGUESE CONSELOR

1. PORTUGUESE CONSELOR (FRANSISCO PESSANHA DE QUEVEDO CRESPO, PLEASE PROTECT CAREFULLY) TOLD CHARGE APRIL 19 ABOUT VISIT TO PRAGUE WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS OF PORTUGUESE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS (NAME UNDERSTOOD POORLY AS CARVALHES, PHONETIC). SOURCE SAID DEPUTY MINISTER, A VETERAN COMMUNIST, WAS EXTREME IN HIS STATEMENTS, PARTICULARLY ABOUT NEED TO "COMBAT WORLD IMPERIALISM." SOURCE SAID SOME OF CZECH INTERLOCUTERS OF DEPUTY MINISTER FINALLY TOLD HIM THAT THEY DID NOT FIND THAT KIND OF VIEW NECESSARY. DEPUTY MINISTER LEFT PRAGUE FOR EAST BERLIN BEFORE RETURNING HOME.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 091398

ACCORDING TO SOURCE, DEPUTY MINISTER TOLD HIM OUTRIGHT THAT "WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REPEAT THE COUP DE PRAGUE IN LISBON NEXT WEEK." SOURCE SAID HE FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE HIS EARS, BUT DEPUTY MINISTER SEEMED TO BE PREDICTING AN ATTEMPT AT A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER WITHIN NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: SOURCE OBVIOUSLY WANTED THIS REPORTED TO WASHINGTON, BUT ASKED CHARGE NOT TO SHARE IT WITH ANYONE IN PRAGUE, NOT EVEN HIS OWN AMBASSADOR. SOURCE IS A SELF-NAMED CONSERVATIVE, AND IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT EVENTS NOWADAYS IN PORTUGAL. HE SPEAKS OF HIS MANY FRIENDS WHO ARE IN EXILE OR IN PRISON, FOR EXAMPLE, AND SEEMS MUCH MORE WORRIED ABOUT PORTUGAL'S GOING COMMUNIST THAN, SAY, HIS AMBASSADOR. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE EXAGGERATED OR TWISTED WHAT THE PORTUGUESE VISITOR SAID, OR PERHAPS THE VISITOR -- WHO APPARENTLY WAS GIVEN TO EXTREME STATEMENTS -- WAS SPEAKING FOR EFFECT. IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT IF THE COMMUNISTS HAD SOME ACTION IN MIND THAT THEY WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT IT IN ADVANCE TO PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATS ABROAD. NEVERTHELESS, SOURCE'S CONCERN CREATED AN OBLIGATION TO REPORT WHAT HE HAD SAID.

PERRY

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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